

REMARKS

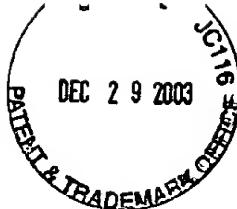
This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003 and in accordance with the personal interview conducted on November 4, 2003. Claims 1, 9, 10, 13, 17, 20, 22, 31, 32, 34 and 35 have been amended. Claims 2, 19, 21, 23, 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. A Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time to respond to the office action is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$420.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the two-month extension. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit for any overpayment.

The Office Action objected to Claims 26, 28 and 30 which recite the "Internet." It is respectfully submitted as discussed during the interview that these claims are sufficient and in accordance with section 112 because these claims depend on claims which include a data network. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 to 10, 12 to 13, 15, 17, 19 to 23, 31 to 32 and 34 to 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,439,993 to O'Halloran. Claims 25 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Halloran. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Halloran in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,551,187 to Jaffe.

The claims have been amended to patentably distinguish over O'Halloran. More specifically, the claims have been amended to clarify that the total award provided to the player includes an award for the first evaluation and an award from the second evaluation. The award from the second evaluation includes the award from the first evaluation (i.e., paid to the player the second time) and any additional award based on the further symbols changes. For example, if the player receives an award of 100 for the first evaluation, the player will receive the award of 100 in the second evaluation and an additional award of 200 for the additional winning combination. Thus, the total award to the player is 400.

Certain claims have been amended to require that a plurality but not all of the symbols in the first set which are replaced include all of the plurality of the symbols



generated on one of the reels. It is respectfully submitted that O'Halloran only discloses changing the wild symbols in the same row to wild symbols or functional symbols. O'Halloran does not disclose, teach or suggest changing all of the symbols generated on a reel into functional or wild symbols. Thus, O'Halloran does not disclose, teach or suggest this invention as a whole.

Other claims have been amended to have predetermined symbols in the first set be selected and changed. O'Halloran also does not disclose, teach or suggest this invention as a whole.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that since the rejections based on O'Halloran have been overcome, the rejection based on O'Halloran alone and in view of Jaffe are also overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 29, 2003

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